(c) whether such a project is proposed to be introduced in other parts of the country also; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) No Sir, no such facility exists presently in Delhi. However, there is a web-site www. Lifesavers freeservers. com. which proposes to maintain a blood donors directory.

(b) The directory is not yet operational.

(c) and (d) This project is an experimental project taken up by a non-governmental organisation and its working needs to be reviewed before introducing it in other cities.

Iodine deficient districts

678. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any scientific report as to how many districts in the country are deficient in Iodine content;

(b) whether it is a fact that only about twenty-five districts have been found to be so deficient; and

(c) if so, whether any decision, in the past was taken to ensure the sale of only iodized salt all over the country and when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) and (b) As per surveys conducted by the Directorate General of Health Services, Indian Council of Medical Research, State Health Directorates and other medical institutions in 282 districts covering 25 States and 5 UTs, 241 districts have been found to be endemic i.e. where the prevalence of iodine deficiency disorders is more than 10 per cent.

(c) Yes, Sir. A notification under the PFA Rules was issued whereby, w.e.f. 27.5.1998, sale of iodised salt was made compulsory for direct human consumption.